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SENATE TAX PLAN HITS DEFICIT SNAG

After an automatic 'trigger' is ruled out, GOP considers adding a tax increase not dependent on economic growth

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

BY ERICA WERNER, MIKE DEBONIS AND DAMIAN PALETTA
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • The Republican plan for a massive tax overhaul slammed into late-stage drama on Thursday, pushing back the vote until Friday at the earliest as party leaders scrambled to prevent several members from derailing the entire effort.

The tension peaked during an hourlong standoff on the Senate floor, as Republican Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee, Jeff Flake of Arizona and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin refused to vote with their colleagues to move the measure to its next step until they had assurances that more changes could be made to the bill.

Corker and Flake had just been informed that their proposed plan to address the bill's effects on the federal deficit would not be allowed by the Senate's parliamentarian. Corker wanted the plan to include a "trigger" mechanism that would raise taxes if economic growth came more slowly than

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PHOTOS BY SID HASTINGS

Normandy High School student Taviyon King portrays the gunman who kills a child in a drive-by shooting, during rehearsals of the play "Zooman and the Sign" on Nov. 21 at the school's campus in Wellston. The play addresses the scourge of gun violence.

Duane Foster, drama teacher at Normandy High School, handles the technical aspects of a rehearsal of the play "Zooman and the Sign." The play will be presented to the public Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

BY KRISTEN TAKETA
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Eight students stood in a row on the stage in Normandy High School's theater.

The teens stared at the imaginary audience and asked a question: "What's going on?"

If you ask the school's honors English students how many of them know someone who was shot and killed, all but a few will raise their hands. In the past month, Normandy High's drama teacher Duane Foster went to four funerals for former students.

"I didn't know students were supposed to die," Foster said to his theater students during a recent rehearsal. "Why are we still, in 2017, dealing with the amount of homicides that we're dealing with in our own community?"

The students crescendoed: "What's going on?"

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Amid protests, STLCC board votes for staff, faculty layoffs

Other cuts will include benefit changes, buyout

BY ASHLEY JOST
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • Minutes before a much-anticipated vote Thursday night regarding layoffs of up to 18 percent of the full-time faculty at St. Louis Community College, a protest halted the meeting.

Students and supporters stopped the college's governing board when some lay down in front of the board and started shouting, "Justice for faculty."

The protest continued for almost an hour before the board returned and took multiple votes in a huddled mass while protesters continued to yell.

The board approved a series of budget reduction proposals, including a voluntary buyout, suspension of sabbaticals, changes to benefits and the hotly contested layoff of as many as 70 faculty and 25 staff members.

Nez Savala, a spokeswoman for

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Democratic fundraiser charged with felony gun crimes

BY CELESTE BOTT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • Veteran Democratic fundraiser Matthew Lieberman has been charged with multiple felony gun crimes after allegedly firing a handgun and shouting racial slurs at eyewitnesses at two businesses Tuesday.

Lieberman

Lieberman pointed a handgun at someone at the Amoco gas station on Skinker Boulevard and Highway 40 (Interstate 64) while using racial epithets just after 11 p.m. Tuesday, according to court documents. He then allegedly fired multiple shots at the building from his car.

In court documents, investigators said surveillance footage showed Lieberman with the gun, and bullet casings at the scene matched the make and model of bullet casings found in

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Trump weighs replacing Tillerson with CIA chief

A plan to replace Secretary of State **Rex Tillerson** *(left) with CIA Director* **Mike Pompeo** *(center) would likely include Sen.* **Tom Cotton**, *R-Ark., (right) being tapped to head the CIA*

BY PHILIP RUCKER, ASHLEY PARKER AND ANNE GEARAN
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • The White House has readied a plan to oust embattled Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and replace him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo, who has become one of the most personally loyal and politically savvy members of President Donald Trump's national security team, two administration officials confirmed Thursday.

The plan, hatched by White House chief of staff John Kelly, is expected to be set in motion over the next few weeks and has broad support within Trump's inner circle, the officials said. But it was unclear whether Trump had signed off on the plan yet, and the president has been known to change his mind about personnel and other matters before finalizing

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'Person of interest' arrested near where teacher was shot
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